

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings are formal drawings of the originally submitted informal drawings. These sheets, which include FIGs. 1-8, replace the original sheets including FIGs. 1-8. Originally filed FIG. 7 missed numbered elements 302-304, 304a-304c, and 306-312. These element numbers have been corrected to read 202-204, 204a-204c, and 206-212.

Attachment: 7 Replacement sheets

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful review of this application. In the specification, paragraph [0030] has been amended to correct minor editorial problems.

Figures 1-8 have been formalized. Originally filed FIG. 7 missed numbered elements 302-304, 304a-304c, and 306-312. These element numbers have been corrected to read 202-204, 204a-204c, and 206-212.

Claims 11-13 have been cancelled. Claims 1-10 and 14-20 remain in this application. Claims 1, 3, 8, and 16 have been amended. In particular, independent claims 1, 8, and 16 have been amended, in general, to require the data-in channel to include a data path that circumvents the data-in transfer storage, thus facilitating priority processing when the data-in transfer storage is full.

Independent claims 1, 8, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,882,645 to Jones (hereinafter "the Jones patent"). Claim 13 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claim 8 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claims 11-13, and is thus respectfully submitted to be allowable over the art of record.

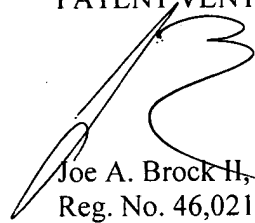
In addition, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 13 and thus as amended requires the data-in channel to have "a data-in transfer storage" and "a data path that circumvents the data-in transfer storage." In this manner, the circumventing data path facilitates priority processing when the data-in transfer storage is full. Independent claim 16 has been amended to include similar limitations to claim 13. In particular, independent claim 16 has been amended to require transmitting both the command data and write data from "the data-in transfer storage...when the data-in transfer storage has unused storage capacity" and transmitting both the command data and write data "via a data path that circumvents the data-in transfer storage when the data-in storage is full."

In summary, independent claims 1, 8, and 16 have been amended to include the limitations of claim 13, which was objected to by the Examiner but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base

claim and any intervening claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 8, and 16, as amended, are allowable over the art of record. For at least the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claims 1, 8, and 16, claims 2-7, 9-10, 14-15, and 17-20 which depend from independent claims 1, 8, and 16 are submitted to be patentable over the art of record.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims in the present application are in condition for allowance, and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (909) 758-5145.

Respectfully submitted,
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Attachments